

Memorandum as to the Requirements in the New Buildings at the South Kensington Museum on the East side of the Exhibition Road.

The general plan of the buildings should be as follows :—

The Eastern portion should, as arranged in the Department's letter to the Treasury of 12th May 1883, contain the accommodation required for Administration ; the centre, the increase to the Libraries and to the space for the European Collections ; and the Western portion the Oriental Collections.

Provision must also be made for the Electric lighting machinery.

The main entrance should be in the centre of the South front. There should also be a public entrance at the North end of the West front, and service entrances at the East and West wings. A lift should be provided near each entrance.

Three rooms for the Police should be provided in a Lodge in front of the main entrance.

The space required in the several portions of the buildings—irrespective of basement, which should be provided throughout—is as follows :—

Eastern. For offices 20,000 superficial feet of floor space (besides the basement). Refreshment rooms for the Staff should be provided and may be in the basement.

For the examination and exhibition of students' works a top-lighted court about 100' × 60' is required. Adjacent to this (and on the ground floor) must be rooms for the unpacking, stamping, sorting, etc., of the works, with an area of about 5,000 superficial feet.

A service entrance should be made, as noted above, to this space, which should be close to and in direct communication with the Department offices.

Rooms for the personal examinations of students are also required. But as it does not seem possible to find space for this purpose on the East side it should be provided for in the buildings on the West side of Exhibition Road.

Central. Additional space for the European Collections, about 45,000 superficial feet of floor space, part in top-lighted courts, part in side-lighted rooms ; addition to the Libraries, book stores for 60,000 volumes, and two working rooms about 20' × 15' each.

The entrance to the Art Library should be as direct as possible from the central main entrance.

Western. 60,000 to 65,000 superficial feet of floor space—of which about one fourth in top-lighted courts—is required for the Oriental Collections.

For the apparatus for lighting the buildings East of Exhibition Road a superficial space of 7,000 feet is required. This might be on two floors, the engines and boilers below and the machines above. A room about 24' × 18' for testing the apparatus is required. This building for the Electric light installation must be somewhat detached from the Museum, on account of the noise and vibration. The best position for it will be behind the North end of the new front on Exhibition Road.

If, however, it be decided to have one installation for both buildings (*i.e.*, on the two sides of Exhibition Road), it had better be placed on the West side, as there will be more room for it.

But wherever it be placed it is very necessary that this building—or so much of it as is necessary to provide lighting for the existing buildings and those first to be built—should be commenced at once.

July, 1890.